entral Queensland

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Central Queensland

Its Pastoral and Agricultural Wealth
Mining and Agricultural Resources
and
Tourist and Scenic Attractions

Issued by the
Queensland Government Tourist Bureau
in conjunction with the
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Edited by G. Westacott

ROCKHAMPTON,
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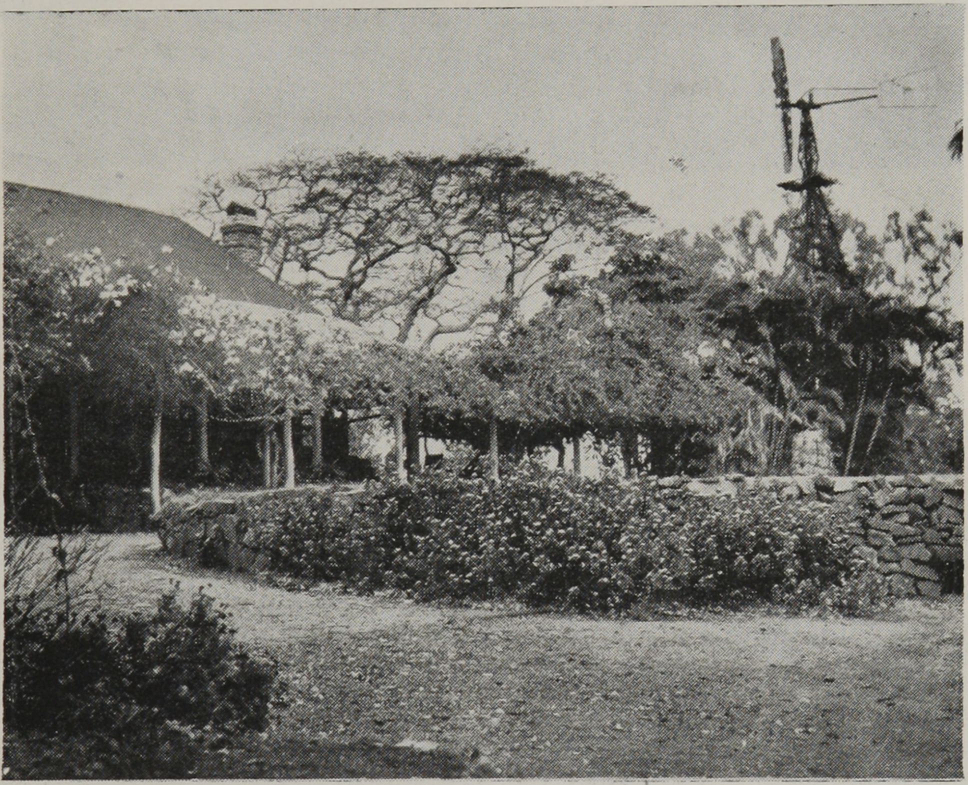
AERIAL VIEW—PORTION OF CITY OF ROCKHAMPTON.

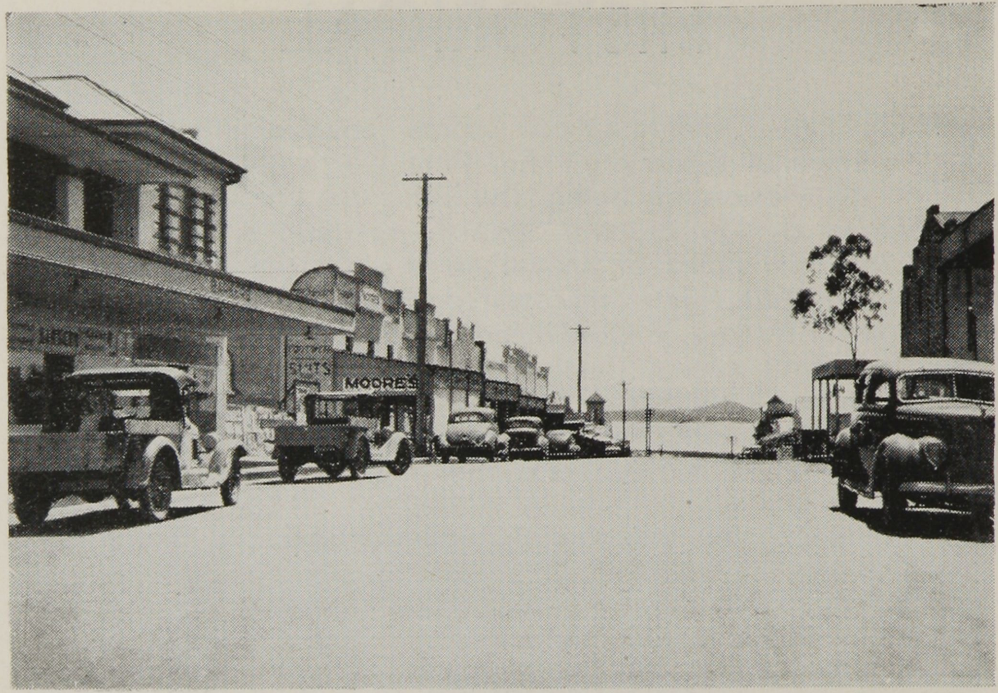
HISTORICAL

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND looms largely in Australia's story of discovery. For Port Curtis was claimed the distinction of being the limit of the south-western voyage of de Quiros, the Spanish navigator, in 1606, and thus the first point of arrival on the eastern shores of the Continent; but this is discounted by a leading authority on the coastal history of Queensland. It is of interest, however, that the first survey party traversing Auckland Hill, Gladstone, in the early fifties found the face of a man splendidly carved on the rock, though unfortunately the date and the inscription were not decipherable.

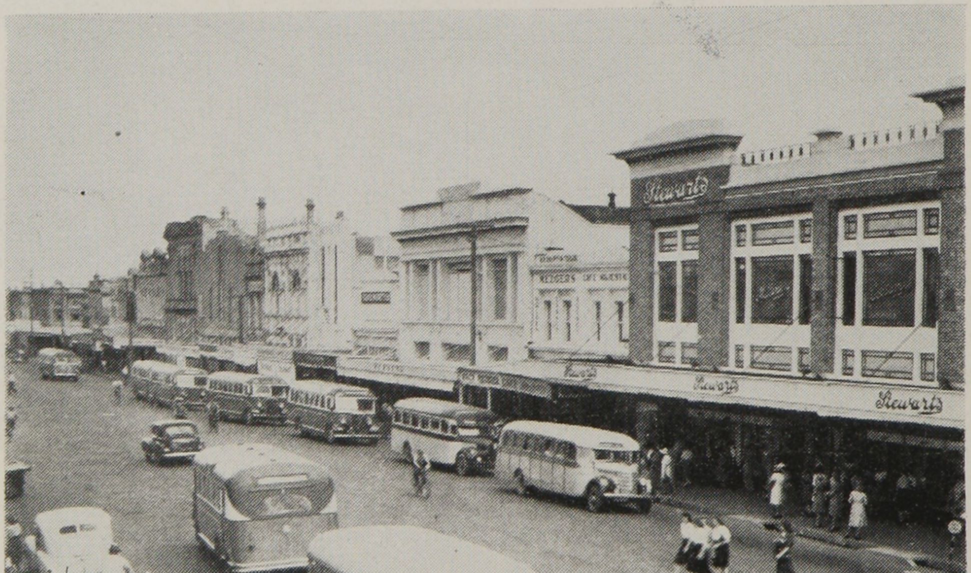


ENTRANCE TO GRACEMERE HOMESTEAD.
Home of the Archers, original settlers in Central Queensland.

The first landing of the British in Queensland by Captain Cook was at Round Hill Head, the southern point of Bustard Bay, on May 24, 1770. Flinders followed in exploration of the Queensland coast, naming Port Curtis. Oxley later visited Port Curtis, which was the scene of an attempt—frustrated by a change in the British Government—to form a new colony under Lt.-Colonel Barney, in 1847. The town



GOONDOON ST., GLADSTONE.
(Harbour in background)


Stewarts
Stewarts
Stewarts

EAST STREET, ROCKHAMPTON.
With municipal buses about to leave for Suburbs.

of Gladstone eventually grew near the line of this enterprise. Sir Maurice O'Connell was appointed Government Representative at Gladstone in 1854.

In 1851-2 the Upper Dawson region was occupied and settlement had advanced northwards from the Burnett District into what is now Central Queensland. Then came the discovery of the great Fitzroy River and the splendid pastoral lands radiating from what is now the city of Rockhampton.

Dr. Leichhardt, explorer, in 1844 crossed the Dawson, Mackenzie and Isaacs rivers and on his return informed the Archer Brothers, then settled in the Burnett District, of his discoveries. In 1853 Charles and William Archer went from Rannes, then the most northerly station and situated 67 miles southwest from Rockhampton, on an exploring expedition. Leichhardt had informed them that in his view the Dawson and Mackenzie would ultimately be found to join and form one large river. To find this river was the aim of the Archer Expedition. This they eventually did, and they named it the Fitzroy, in honour of the then Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy.

In 1855 a party headed by William Archer left the Burnett for Central Queensland, with several thousand sheep, bullock teams, and horses, and made the head station of the new settlement, at Gracemere, six miles from Rockhampton. The land taken up by the Archers extended from Bajool scrub to Morinish, with the Fitzroy for 70 miles as a boundary.

The first load of wool was taken down the Fitzroy for transportation to Sydney in November, 1855. Whilst Charles Archer was establishing the settlement at Gracemere, Colin Archer, his brother, had a cutter built in

GENERAL VIEW OF MT. MORGAN TOWNSHIP,
Taken from Mine Workings.

Maryborough to convey supplies to the party at Gracemere. This vessel, the Elida, was the first to navigate the Fitzroy River, and never was a more welcome event to the settlers than her arrival.

Next arrivals were the Elliotts, who settled in Canoona. Mr. W. K. Wiseman, Commissioner of Lands, visited Gracemere, and he and Charles Archer chose the site of the future town, naming it Rockhampton. In April, 1856, W. M. Risien, second in command of the Archer party, took the first census of the district. There were only the Archers and their party and the Elliotts and their employees, and they totalled 35 in all.

About the middle of 1856 Richard Palmer established the first store; the following year the Bush Inn, Rockhampton's first public house, was opened by R. A. Parker. In 1857 pastoral settlement increased with the taking up of country by new settlers, but in 1858 (January) Rockhampton's population was doubled by the arrival of four travellers, and the only two buildings were Palmer's store and the Bush Inn. A year later the whole place was a mass of tents, the river was full of steamers and all manner of craft, and the place was humming with the presence of thousands of people. This change was brought about by the discovery of gold at Canoona in 1858.

The Canoona rush was a tragic failure but it gave the town of Rockhampton a powerful impetus. In 1860 it was declared a municipality and the discovery of gold and copper at Peak Downs the following year gave further impetus to its development. Meanwhile the permanent settlement on this vast and rich pastoral territory went steadily on as flocks and herds multiplied and were pushed west and still further west, over ranges and across wide plains, stretching for hundreds of miles.

Apart from the abiding wealth of the great pastoral and agricultural territories, the discovery of the Mt. Morgan mining field was the biggest single incident to extend and confirm Central Queensland's prosperity. Other rich mineral finds occurred in various parts of the district, including gem fields in the Anakie district, whilst the presence of huge coal deposits were revealed.

There is now in process what may be described as the third phase in the development of Central Queensland. The first phase was represented by the pastoral settlement which followed the trail of the explorers. The second was the mineral discoveries which gave a fillip to population and stimulated commercial enterprise.

The third phase is concerned with the exploitation of the latent wealth which has long been known to exist, but has remained dormant through lack of capital and enterprise—due in large measure to the sparse population—to bring it into use. The coming of the British Food Mission has revealed, and is about to bring into production, a vast tract of agricultural land equal to anything in Australia, and capable of immense productivity. The chronic shortage of coal for domestic and industrial use that has developed throughout Australia has turned attention of investors and governments to the Central Queensland coal deposits as a source of supply both for home needs and the fostering of an export trade. The fuller utilisation of the district's water resources and land improvements is being recognised as a sure means of getting greater production in the livestock industry. The possibilities that reside in the large scale quest for flow oil in the district call for little imagination.

All these things point to a big increase in the population, wealth production and importance of Central Queensland.

AREAS AND BOUNDARIES

Central Queensland has 212,224 square miles of the State of Queensland's 670,500 square miles (429,120,000 acres, or nearly a third). Its situation is between latitude 21 and 26 deg. south and longitude 153 and 138 deg. east. The tropic of Capricorn passes just below Rockhampton, the Division's chief commercial centre, and through Longreach.

The boundaries of Central Queensland are set out in the Real Property (Local Registries) Act of 1887 as follows :

The southern boundary commences on the east coast at the mouth of the Kolan River and is bounded thence on the south by the northern watershed of that river westerly to the Dawes Range; thence by that range and the range forming the northern and western watersheds of the Rawbelle River and its tributaries westerly and southerly to their junction with the southern watershed of Ross and Cracow Creeks; by that watershed westerly to the Dawson River; by that river downwards to Bigge Range; by that range westerly to Carnarvon Range; by that range westerly to the Great Dividing Range; by that range westerly to the Warrego Range; by that range westerly to the Cheviot Range; by that range north-westerly and westerly to the confluence of the Thomson and Barcoo Rivers; thence by a line due west to the western boundary of the State south of the twenty-fifth parallel of latitude. The western boundary extends in a direct line northwards from south of the twenty-fifth parallel of latitude to the twenty-first parallel of latitude.

The northern boundary commences at the lastnamed parallel easterly to its intersection with the Selwyn Range; thence by that range, Kirby's Range, and the range forming the southern water-

UNIQUE SIGNPOST
on Rockhampton—Mt. Morgan Road.

TROPIC OF
CAPRICORN
TORRID
ZONE
TEMPERATE
ZONE

shed of the Flinders River and its tributaries in a general easterly direction again to the twenty-first parallel of latitude; thence by that parallel easterly to the Great Dividing Range; by that range southerly to its junction with the southern watershed of the Cape River; by that watershed easterly to the confluence of the Belyando and Suttor Rivers; thence by that Suttor River upwards to its head in the Leichhardt Range; thence by that range and the northern watershed of Funnel Creek and its tributaries easterly and southerly to a spur forming the watershed separating the waters of Marion and Rocky Dam Creeks; thence by that watershed north-easterly to Cape Palmerston on the east coast of the State; thence by a line eastward to the eastern boundary of the State; thence on the east by the lastnamed boundary southerly to Sandy Cape, and again on the south by a line westerly to the point of commencement, inclusive of all islands adjacent thereto south of the latitude of Cape Palmerston and north of the latitude of Sandy Cape.

TYPICAL CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COASTLINE.
Sandy Beaches and Safe Bathing.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

With a breadth of 725 to 900 miles, Central Queensland's climate naturally varies considerably from the coastal type, in which the temperature is subject to humid influences due to heavy rainfall as well as nearness to the ocean, to the semi-continental dryness enhanced by an increasingly lighter rainfall as the border of the Northern Territory or Central Australia is reached. Differences caused by latitude are small, for Central Queensland is contained within the 22nd to 26th parallels, and averages only 250 miles from north to south.

Local conditions, of course, have special determining influences, but as in the other divisions of Queensland there are three main types of climate. The coastal area is even in temperature with considerable moisture, but hot days in summer are usually followed by sea breezes which ensure cool nights. Inland a second type of climate succeeds, and becomes more marked according to distance from the coast and height above sea-level. It is dryer and generally cooler, though the extremes between winter cold and and summer heat are greater. The far West climate finds summer and winter weather conditions with still greater ranges, and the lower rainfall assists materially to produce dryness of atmosphere, which in some respects makes the summer reat more tolerable and healthier.

Highlands and tablelands in Central Queensland have a specially invigorating climate of their own in all seasons. Summer extends from November to February, with the winter period June to the end of August, and embracing usually glorious successions of sunshiny days with exhilarating atmosphere. Snow is practically unknown, but ground frosts are common.

TEMPERATURES.

Following are the mean shade summer and winter temperatures, based on the latest records available, at the undermentioned Central Queensland stations (data furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, Melbourne)—

STATION	SUMMER (Dec., Jan., Feb.)			WINTER (June, July, Aug.)		
	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean Temp.	Mean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean Temp.
COASTAL						
Gladstone	85.4	71.5	78.5	72.7	53.9	63.3
Mount Morgan	88.1	68.5	78.3	71.8	48.8	60.3
Rockhampton	89.6	71.7	80.6	74.8	52.2	63.5
St. Lawrence	88.1	71.5	79.8	74.9	52.6	63.7
Biloela	91.1	65.8	78.4	72.1	43.1	56.7
WESTERN						
Barcaldine	95.7	72.2	83.9	73.5	47.0	60.3
Blackall	98.1	71.4	84.7	72.6	44.9	59.7
Boulia	100.5	74.7	87.6	74.8	47.5	61.1
Clermont	93.6	69.5	81.5	74.3	44.7	59.5
Emerald	94.2	69.8	82.0	74.3	45.6	59.9
Isisford	98.2	72.4	85.3	73.7	45.8	59.7
Longreach	98.6	72.0	85.3	75.2	45.9	60.5
Springsure	92.7	68.6	80.7	72.4	44.6	58.5
Tambo	95.2	67.7	81.4	72.3	40.7	56.5
Urandangie	100.4	73.8	87.1	76.7	47.0	61.8
Winton	100.0	73.0	86.5	77.5	47.7	62.6

RAINFALL.

The latest figures, brought to the end of 1942, in most cases show variations in rainfall from nearly 60 inches in the coast to little more than 10 inches in the Far West, the Middle West ranging from 27 to 16 inches. Such is the wonderful recuperative power of the Western country that it can do with a lighter rainfall than the coastal districts and even after a long dry period, two or three weeks after rain sees the land smiling again with the bright green of the remarkable Mitchell grass, the Flinders and blue grasses and various kinds of herbage.

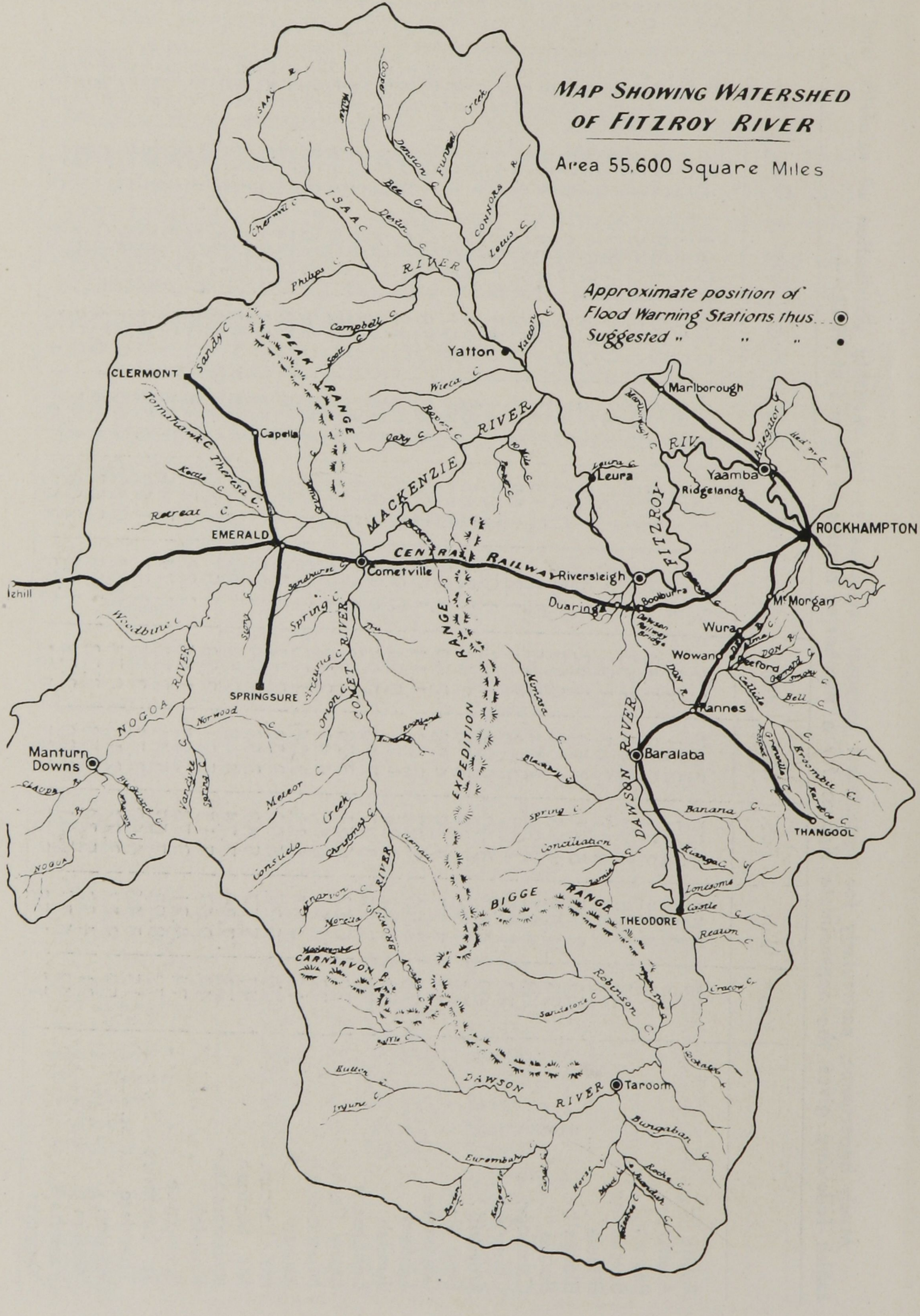
Following are the latest figures available of average annual rainfalls at the chief centres and stations named in Central Queensland (data supplied by Commonwealth Meteorologist, Melbourne) :—

RAINFALL.

Stations	No. of Years Record	Inches
Coastal—		
Calliope	28	36.81
Duaringa	53	27.65
Emu Park	56	42.29
Gladstone	71	39.98
Gracemere	42	32.38
Marlborough	72	36.03
Many Peaks	32	36.04
Miriam Vale	49	47.00
Mount Larcom	29	35.93
Mt. Morgan	47	32.19
Nebo	70	29.94
Rockhampton	72	38.95
Rosedale	44	44.75
Stanwell	46	31.01
St. Lawrence	72	41.11
Westwood	68	29.32
Yaamba	43	34.32
Yeppoon	52	56.35
Western—		
Alpha	56	21.35
Aramac	63	17.62
Banana	72	27.45
Western—Contd.—		
Barcaldine	56	19.70
Blackall	63	20.77
Bogantungan	55	26.22
Boulia	56	10.34
Capella	44	22.45
Camboon	69	28.18
Clermont	72	26.97
Diamantina Lakes	53	10.74
Emerald	60	24.61
Gindie	44	21.55
Ilfracombe	43	15.71
Isisford	58	17.73
Jericho	42	19.96
Jundah	53	13.56
Longreach	50	16.52
Monkira	61	8.80
Muttaburra	58	17.20
Rolleston	54	25.62
Springsure	74	26.19
Tambo	62	21.00
Tangorin	49	15.71
Twin Hills	51	24.24
Winton	59	15.90
Wowan	21	30.11

Much importance, particularly for agricultural purposes, attaches to the monthly distribution of rainfalls, and the tables following gives the approximate figures for a number of centres to the end of 1942:—

	Years	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Alpha	56	3.69	3.06	2.37	1.44	1.02	1.51	0.98	0.75	0.83	1.23	1.80	2.67
Aramac	63	2.99	2.87	2.21	1.26	0.93	1.15	0.83	0.41	0.62	0.96	1.39	2.00
Banana	72	4.25	3.71	2.98	1.43	1.43	1.86	1.35	0.90	1.28	2.01	2.55	3.70
Barcaldine	56	3.28	2.93	2.67	1.43	1.16	1.18	0.95	0.59	0.66	1.11	1.45	2.29
Biloela	20	4.48	4.75	2.67	1.91	1.72	1.93	1.25	0.59	0.87	1.78	2.87	3.65
Blackall	63	2.96	3.31	2.64	1.42	1.36	1.23	1.08	0.66	0.74	1.36	1.51	2.50
Boulia	56	1.69	1.98	1.53	0.59	0.42	0.53	0.32	0.26	0.29	0.53	0.90	1.30
Camboon	69	4.22	3.56	2.54	1.66	1.51	2.13	1.53	1.08	1.39	2.04	2.81	3.71
Clermont	72	5.02	4.27	3.16	1.64	1.29	1.68	1.06	0.70	0.95	1.28	2.15	3.77
Emerald	60	4.12	3.40	2.97	1.42	1.07	1.65	1.11	0.85	1.08	1.42	2.19	3.33
Emu Park	56	7.98	7.39	5.70	3.48	2.21	2.65	1.68	0.89	1.20	1.81	2.37	4.93
Gladstone	71	7.27	7.29	4.96	2.50	1.83	2.57	1.84	0.91	1.23	1.91	2.84	4.83
Isisford	58	2.50	2.87	2.62	1.34	1.04	1.06	0.88	0.53	0.60	1.01	1.34	1.94
Jundah	53	1.92	2.25	1.78	0.94	0.92	0.89	0.66	0.33	0.58	0.92	0.87	1.50
Longreach	50	2.29	3.47	2.40	0.95	0.88	0.91	0.76	0.28	0.54	0.94	1.25	1.85
Many Peaks	32	6.62	6.61	3.28	2.33	1.61	2.54	1.57	0.96	0.92	2.05	2.79	4.76
Marlborough	72	6.91	6.66	4.41	2.12	1.52	2.15	1.25	0.88	1.06	1.78	2.51	4.78
Monto	16	4.64	5.13	3.06	1.70	2.12	1.81	1.94	0.90	0.76	2.28	2.93	3.63
Mt. Larcom	29	6.26	6.99	3.28	2.42	1.48	2.57	1.75	0.70	0.92	1.75	2.45	5.36
Mt. Morgan	47	5.67	5.49	3.53	2.09	1.39	2.19	1.53	0.93	1.01	1.82	2.57	3.97
Rockhampton	72	7.39	7.74	4.48	2.53	1.60	2.51	1.73	0.82	1.22	1.78	2.48	4.67
Rosedale	44	9.67	7.15	5.31	2.93	1.97	2.80	1.94	1.24	1.38	2.37	2.71	5.28
Springsure	74	4.21	3.78	2.97	1.56	1.23	1.76	1.18	0.99	1.22	1.62	2.39	3.28
St. Lawrence	72	8.93	7.67	5.41	2.73	1.74	2.46	1.36	0.79	1.19	1.76	2.40	4.67
Theodore	15	3.46	4.40	2.72	2.25	1.77	1.65	1.59	0.68	0.65	1.48	3.25	4.09
Winton	59	3.22	3.22	2.15	0.74	0.63	0.86	0.60	0.21	0.40	0.75	1.26	1.86
Wowan	21	4.32	5.24	2.58	2.23	1.28	2.67	1.58	0.72	0.80	1.71	2.88	4.10
Yaamba	43	6.77	6.01	3.80	2.78	1.35	2.09	1.47	0.78	0.89	1.67	2.36	4.35
Yeppoon	52	11.58	9.67	7.47	4.82	3.23	3.62	1.91	1.23	1.63	2.77	2.88	5.54



MAP SHOWING WATERSHED OF FITZROY RIVER

Area 55,600 Square Miles

Approximate position of Flood Warning Stations thus ... ◉
Suggested " " " ●

ISAAC R
ISAAC RIVER
Denison C
Funnel C
Connors R
Bell C
Devlin C
Lotus C
Cherwell C
Phillips C
Campbell C
Sandy C
PEAK RANGE
Scott C
Yatton
Yatton C
Wiella C
Retreat C
Mackenzie River
CLERMONT
Capella
Tomahawk C
Theresa C
Retreat C
EMERALD
MACKENZIE
CENTRAL RAILWAY
Cometville
Riversleigh
Marlborough
Leura
Yaamba
Ridgelands
Alligator
FITZROY
FITZROY RIV
ROCKHAMPTON
Duaringa
Boolburra
Dawson Railway Bridge
Mt Morgan
Wura
Wowan
DON R
Bell
Rannes
Baralaba
Banana C
Kianga C
Lonesome
Castle C
THANGOOL
Callide
Grevillea C
Kroombit C
Kariboe C
Redland
THEODORE
Reaum C
Cracow C
Sandhurst C
Spring C
Woodbine C
Sterry
SPRINGSURE
Comet River
Arcturus C
Orion C
Nogoa River
Norwood
NOGOA
Manturn Downs
Claude R
Vandyke C
Spring C
Meteor C
Consuelo
Creek
Christmas C
EXPEDITION RANGE
Nimbra
Spring C
Conciliation
Dawson River
Carnarvon C
Brown River
CARNARVON R
BIGGE RANGE
Robinson C
Sandstone C
Bottle C
Button C
Injune C
DAWSON RIVER
Taroom
Bungaban C
Eurombah
Baroondah C
Roche C

GEOGRAPHY IN BRIEF

COASTAL POINTS.

The maps herewith give Central Queensland's principal features in physical geography. It has a frontage to the sea of 290 miles, and a coastline of double that length. The Great Barrier Reef, at the most 100 miles from the coast, protects these waters from the full force of the Pacific Ocean, and so the broad, deep channel lying between the Reef and the mainland is well sheltered, and safe and comfortable voyaging is assured for the smallest vessels and largest steamships. Beginning from the Kolan River, the principal points of interest travelling north are Baffle Creek, Lady Elliot Island (50 miles off shore), Round Hill Head, Bunker Group, Bustard Head, Port Curtis, Facing Island, Gatcombe Head, Curtis

JIM CROW MOUNTAIN,
A landmark on Rockhampton—Yeppoon Road.

A FERTILE VALLEY,
With Range country in background.

COMET RIVER, Central Western Line.

Island, The Narrows passage between Port Curtis, Port Alma, and Broadmount, with Port Curtis Island on the east, Black Head, Cape Capricorn, and Cape Keppel (on Curtis Island), Port Alma, Fitzroy River entrance, Keppel Group, Water Park Point, Cape Manifold, Cape Clinton, Townshend Island and Cape Townshend, Shoalwater Bay, Northumberland Islands, Stanage Point, Long Island, Broadsound, Flat Islands, Notch Point, and Cape Palmerston.

RANGES AND HIGHLANDS.

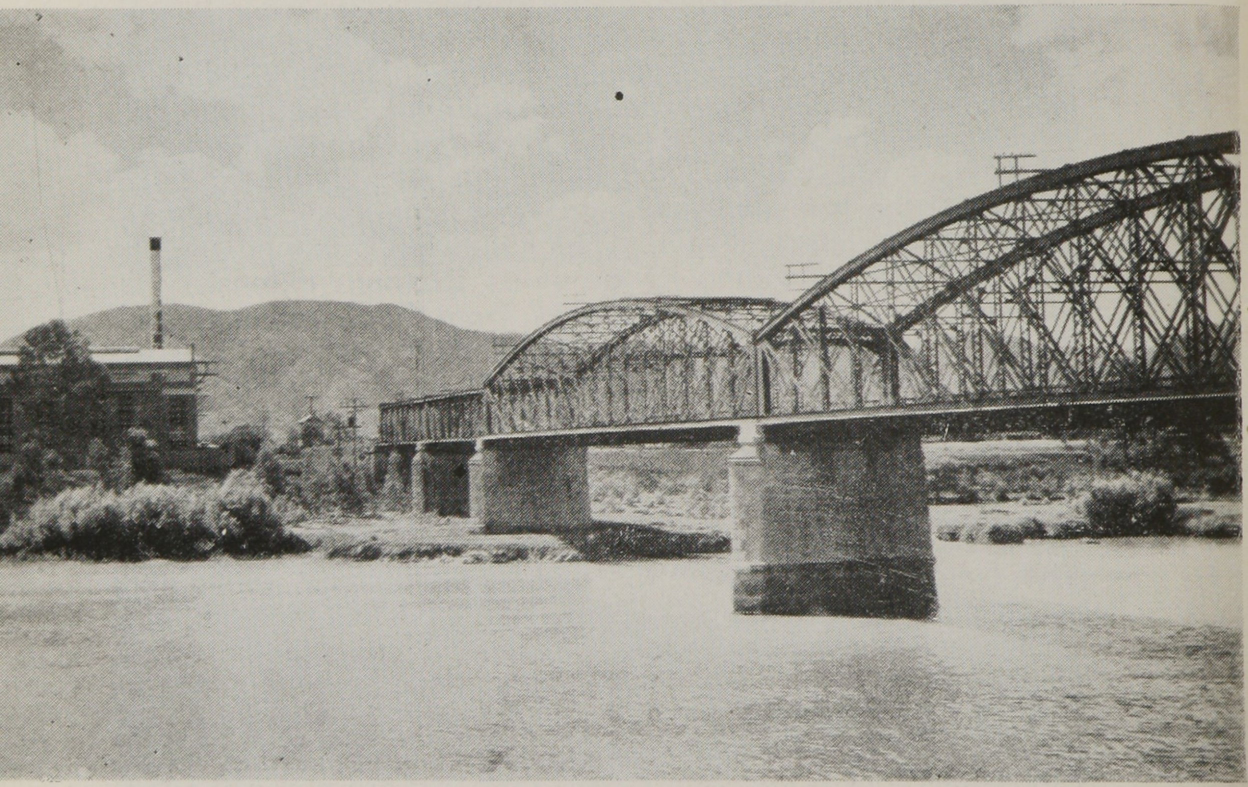
There are three principal mountain ranges or mountain chains in Central Queensland, running generally north and south. The coastal chain includes the Connor, Broadsound, Boomer (north-west from Rockhampton), Gogango, Ulam, and Calliope Ranges. The Calliope Range is west of Gladstone and joins the Dawes Range, between Callide Valley and Upper Burnett, on the southern boundary of Central Queensland. Travelling by the Central-West Railway, the Gogango Range is crossed in the Westwood district, 30 miles from Rockhampton, the greatest height above sea-level (569 feet) being at Huxham Station. The Drummond Range, which joins the Main Dividing Range at its southern extension, is between Bogantungan, 227 miles from Rockhampton, and Pinehill. The top of the range is at Drummond, 1,455 feet above sea-level, and the highest point on the Central-West Railway. The Main Dividing Range is crossed between Alpha and Jericho, 306 miles from Rockhampton. Beta is the highest point of this range, with 1.314 feet.

There are numerous other ranges and groups of peaks. The Gelobera, Dawson, and Expedition Ranges are in the south-east, and the Bigge, Carnarvon, and Warrego Ranges along the southern boundary of Central Queensland. The Denham Range is in the north. In the middle and far West the Negri (Jundah district), Mueller, and Cory Ranges (going north and north-east) are most prominent. The Peak Mountains, north and east from Clermont, are noted for the many outstanding peaks. These include Wolfgang, Little Wolfgang Peak, Fletcher's Awl, Mounts Rankin, McLaren, Stuart, McDonald, and Gilbert's Dome.

There are many high peaks in the Drummond and Main Dividing Ranges. High Double Mountain, in the coastal Normanby Range, is 2,545 feet, and Mount Stanley the next highest with 2,430 feet. The several extensive tablelands include Buckland (south from Springsure) and Black Down Plateaux, rising to over 2,000 feet. The Great Dividing Range runs right through Central Queensland, and is the most important mountain chain, as its name implies. It separates the creeks and rivers running east and north-east from those running west by south-west.

LAKES, RIVERS, AND WATERCOURSES.

Central Queensland shares with other parts of the State the advantage of having an exceptionally large number of rivers and creeks. The lakes are few. Lake Galilee, 55 miles north-east from Aramac, has an area of 80 square miles; the northern end is fresh and the southern salt. Lake Buchanan, 60 miles north of Lake Galilee, is salt; area, 50 square miles. Other lakes include Mueller (soda) and Barcoorah (fresh), east and north-east respectively of Muttaburra; Diamantina, Aramoo, and Koolivoo (fresh) in Bedourie (Far-West district). The lakes with largest area are Philippi (126 square miles) and Machattie (120 square miles) south-west from Bedourie on the Northern Territory border. Both are salt. There are also many large lagoons which retain big bodies of water in all weather conditions.



ALEXANDRA RAILWAY BRIDGE, FITZROY RIVER,
Connecting Central and Northern Rail systems.

The Fitzroy, flowing into Keppel Bay, is the most important river. Its length is 520 miles, its main tributaries the

Dawson, Comet, Don, Dee, Mackenzie, Isaacs, and Nogoa Rivers, ranging from 150 to 310 miles in length, and total area drained is 55,603 square miles. The Dawson, the longest tributary, has its source in the Great Dividing Range, in Southern Queensland, 50 miles north of Roma. The map of Fitzroy River basin illustrates its great size as the largest river system on Australia's eastern coast.

On the coast the Boyne (60 miles) and Calliope, both flowing into Port Curtis, Baffle Creek, an important stream, and the Kolan River are the chief waterways from Gladstone southwards. Styx River (40 miles) empties into Broadsound.

The Barcoo, Alice, Thomson, Darr, Diamantina, Hamilton, Burke, and Georgina are the principal middle and far-Western rivers. They run south-westerly, discharging into Lake Eyre (South Australia) and neighbourhood. The Barcoo, Alice, Thomson, and Darr run into Cooper's Creek. The length of these watercourses is very considerable, reaching approximately 470 miles in the case of the Diamantina. They are fed by numerous creeks. East of the Great Dividing Range the Belyando River and tributaries, some rising in the Drummond Range, has a long course through Central Queensland, and flowing north, joins the Burdekin River (in North Queensland), which discharges into Upstart Bay. The Diamantina, Georgina, and other far-Western rivers, after heavy rainfall, spread for many miles over the neighbouring country.

THE THOMSON RIVER, CENTRAL WEST.

POPULATION

The number of people resident in Central Queensland on 30th June, 1947, was 104,171, made up of 78,539 in the Rockhampton Statistical Division, 20,746 in the Central Western Statistical Division and 4,886 in the Far Western Statistical Division. These figures are derived from the Census held at 30th June, 1947. At the 1933 Census the population was given as 99,214, and in 1912 it stood at 79,332. Greater population is an outstanding need of the region.

The following table, supplied by the Government Statisticians Office, Rockhampton, gives the Census population in the several local authority areas.

TABLE (1)

ROCKHAMPTON STATISTICAL DIVISION

Local Authority Area.	Population 30th June, 1947.
Cities—	
Rockhampton	34,983
Towns—	
Gladstone	5,248
Shires—	
Banana	7,615
Broadsound	1,415
Calliope	3,800
Duaringa	1,790
Fitzroy	3,773
Livingstone	6,451
Miriam Vale	1,783
Monto	4,276
Mount Morgan	4,954
Taroom	1,921
Theodore (not incorporated in L.A.A.)	530
Total	78,539

CENTRAL-WESTERN STATISTICAL DIVISION

Local Authority Area.	Population 30th June, 1947.
Shires—	
Aramac	1,590
Barcaldine	2,154
Bauhinia	1,457
Belyando	3,069
Blackall	2,484
Emerald	2,241
Ilfracombe	450
Jericho	1,569
Longreach	4,134
Peak Downs	716
Tambo	882
Total	20,746

FAR-WESTERN STATISTICAL DIVISION

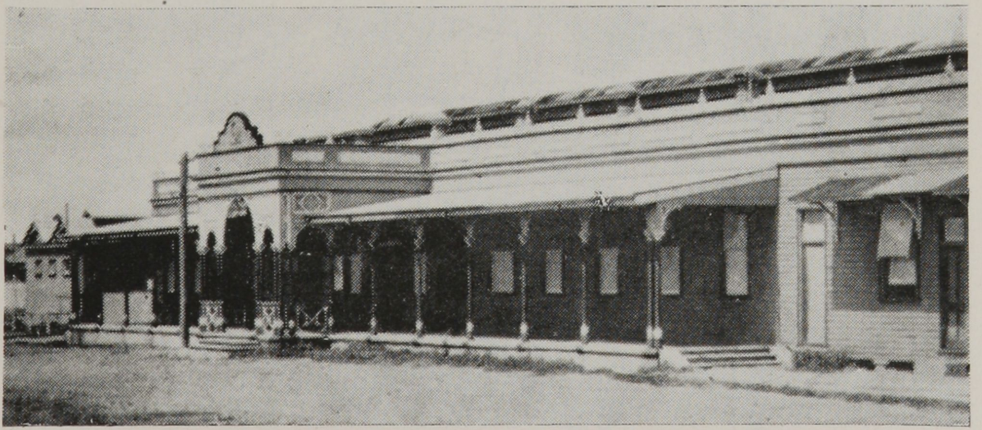
Local Authority Area.	Population 30th June, 1947.
Shires—	
Barcoo	835
Boulia	676
Diamantina	222
Isisford	657
Winton	2,496
Total	4,886

TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

Central Queensland is well provided with means of transport by rail, sea, air and road. Rockhampton, Port Alma and Gladstone are the principal ports. Port Alma is the principal deep sea harbour for Rockhampton, accommodating all vessels of big tonnage. Rockhampton's town wharves are fully equipped for the accommodation of inter-state vessels. These port facilities are under the control of the Rockhampton Harbour Board, which operates the dredger Fitzroy and smaller craft and maintains a modern mechanical workshop and an efficient staff for the maintenance of river depths.

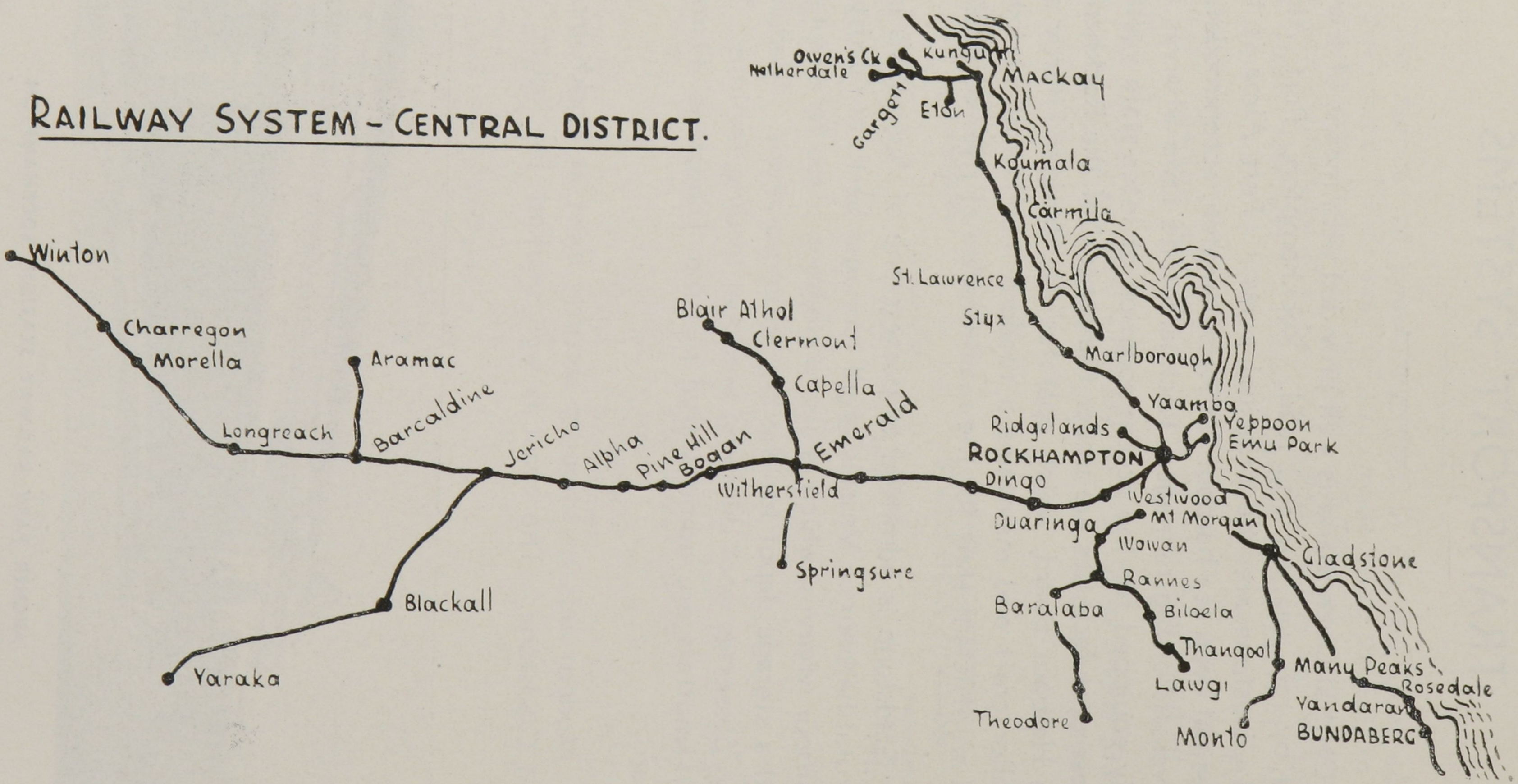
Gladstone is admitted to possess one of Australia's best natural harbours. Vessels of all tonnages berth at Gladstone Harbour wharves, which is also a stopping place for seaplanes and a storage depot for the big oil corporations. Gladstone also possesses wool dumping and coal loading facilities. All port matters are administered by the Gladstone Harbour Board.

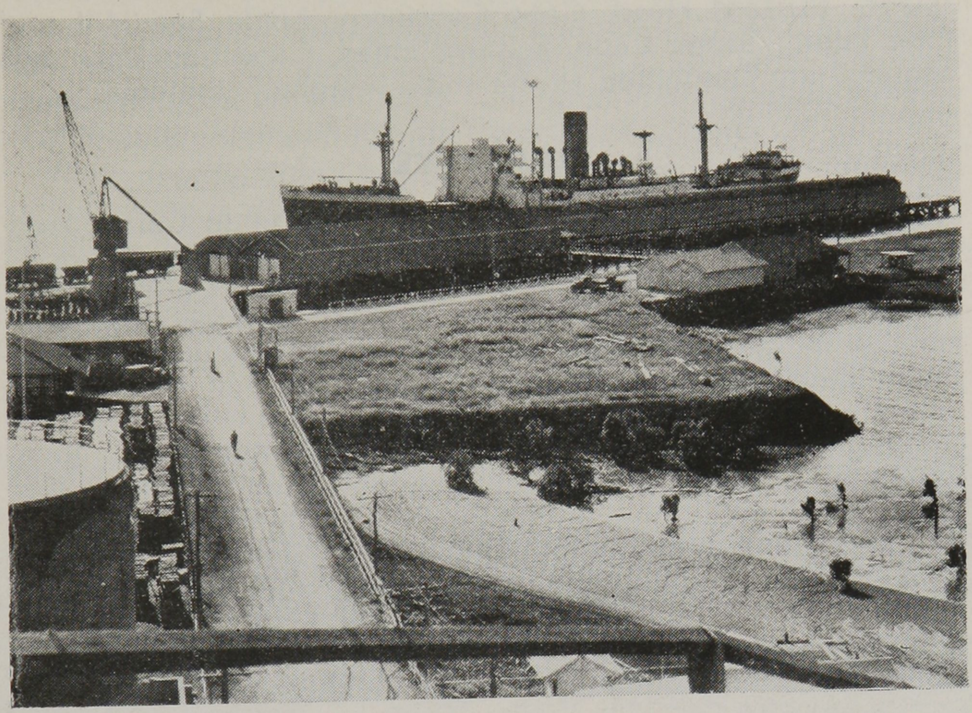
Modern aids to shipping security exist at Rockhampton and Gladstone. The coast is well marked by lights, and



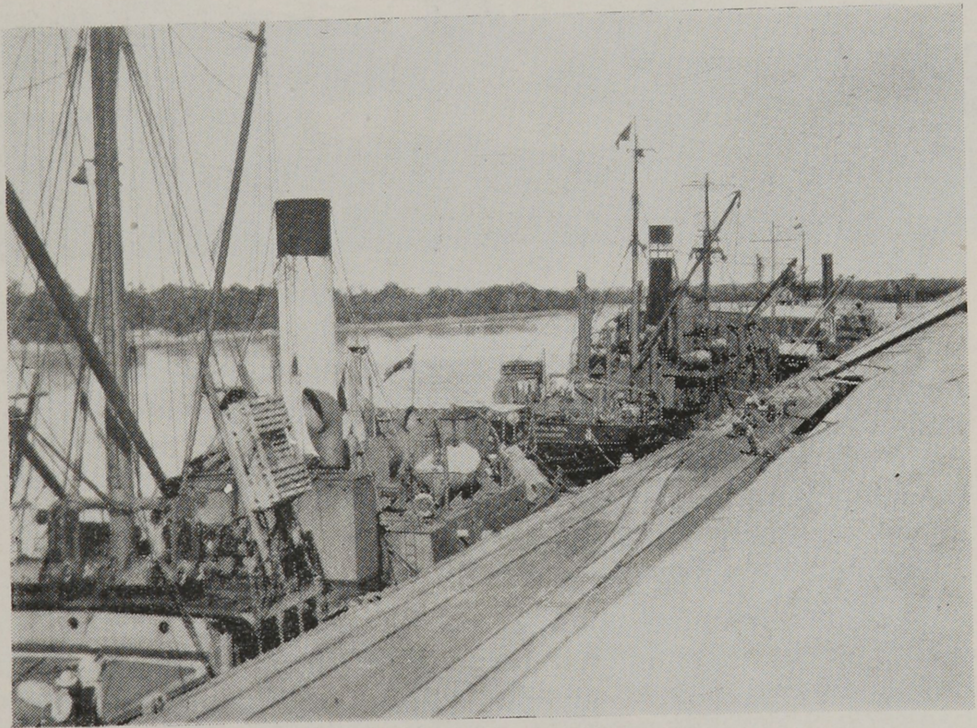
ARCHER PARK RAILWAY STATION, ROCKHAMPTON.

RAILWAY SYSTEM - CENTRAL DISTRICT.


Owen's Ck
Netherdale
Kungurri
Gargett
Eton
Mackay
Koumala
Carmila
St. Lawrence
Styx
Marlborough
Yaamba
Yeppoon
Emu Park
Ridgelands
ROCKHAMPTON
Westwood
Mt Morgan
Gladstone
Winton
Charregon
Morella
Aramac
Longreach
Barcaldine
Jericho
Alpha
Pine Hill
Bogan
Blair Athol
Clermont
Capella
Emerald
Withersfield
Springsure
Dingo
Duaringa
Wowan
Rannes
Baralaba
Biloela
Thangool
Lawgi
Theodore
Monto
Many Peaks
Rosedale
Yandaran
BUNDABERG
Blackall
Yaraka



GLADSTONE JETTY, CENTRAL QUEENSLAND.

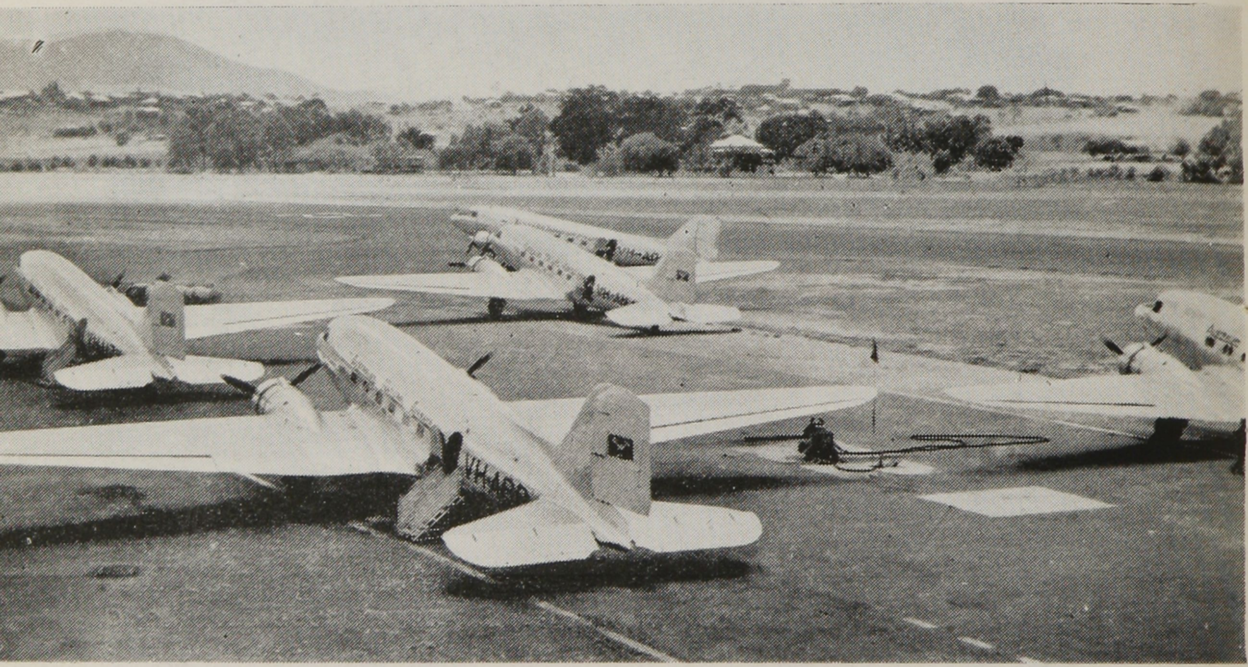


CITY WHARVES, ROCKHAMPTON.

manned lights are maintained at Sandy Cape, Lady Elliott Island, Bustard Head, Cape Capricorn, Little Sea Hill and Pine Islet. Sandy Cape, Bustard Head, Cape Capricorn and Sea Hill are connected to the main telegraph systems.

RAILWAYS.

The North Coast Railway from Brisbane to Cairns runs through Central Queensland connecting it with all the principal lines in Queensland and Australia. The Central Western line has been continued to Winton, and so gives connection in the north-west with the Northern railway system from Townsville, branching at Hughenden.



CONNOR PARK AERODROME, ROCKHAMPTON.

Important branch lines are to Lawgi (Callide Valley) 117 miles from Rockhampton; Theodore (Dawson Valley) 148 miles from Rockhampton; Ridgelands 18 miles; Emu Park 31 miles; Yeppoon 36 miles; Bajool-Port Alma 16 miles; Gladstone to Monto 102 miles; Emerald to Springsure 40 miles; Emerald to Blair Athol 74 miles; Jericho to Yaraka 169 miles; Barcaldine-Aramac 41 miles.

Government lines open for traffic in January 1947 totalled 1684.63 miles. An accompanying map will show the railway system of the Central Division, radiating from Rockhampton. Total number of Railway Department employees in the Division is 1326.

ROAD TRANSPORT.

In addition to the railway the motor car, motor bus and road transport for goods are largely used and with the implementation of a new State Transport Act (passed 1946) considerable extension in this field is anticipated.

Main Roads works are in progress designed to improve communication with the Southern and Northern Divisions of the State, for the encouragement of the motor tourist. An all bitumen surfaced road between Rockhampton and Brisbane is a present objective of Central Queensland tourist and commercial organisations.

A steady and continuous policy of improving road communication with inland centres is being pursued by the Main Roads Commission in collaboration with the local authorities.

Rockhampton is now included in the Pioneer Tourist Coach services, weekly arrivals and departures being scheduled.

The North-South Defence Road, constructed as a war time measure to maintain communications with Northern Australia, traverses a considerable area in Central Queensland.

AERIAL SERVICES.

Central Queensland is well catered for in the matter of aerial services. The Rockhampton Aerodrome (Connor Park) enlarged during and since the war is rated one of the best in Australia. Regular passenger services with the South and North are scheduled daily. Melbourneites wishing to visit Rockhampton may leave Essenden 'drome in the early morning and reach their destination at mid-afternoon.

ROAD OUT OF ROCKHAMPTON.
Leading to Hinterland.

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Strategically placed at a railway centre between the vast producing regions of the West and North, and the rapidly growing consuming divisions in the South, Rockhampton is destined to become probably the greatest livestock market in Australia, holding a key position in the handling and marketing of cattle, sheep and pigs. The time is not far distant when Central Queensland will maintain a regular weekly chilled meat trade with southern ports.

Central Queensland's richest heritage is her grazing industry. Since the earliest settlement, a century ago, livestock has been the foundation of her prosperity. Her ranking among the States of the Commonwealth is achieved largely through indigenous grasses for, directly and indirectly, the products of her soils have moulded her destiny. Whether their interests are urban or rural, most residents in Central Queensland are shareholders in the great coastal to interior business of grazing.

While the forests and plains were not the native land of cattle and sheep, since their introduction these animals have admirably adjusted themselves to environment. In the 100 years of occupancy land settlement has progressed and, despite the low values of animals and their crude products in the early days, the livestock population has grown tremendously.

Central Queensland is the State's leading division in merino sheep and cattle production. This ranking is based upon Government statistics for the year 1945 which discloses that the sheep population was 38 per cent. of the State's total, while the cattle percentage was 46.

HEREFORD FATS, ready for market.

In Central Queensland the years 1945 and 1946 were drought years and all primary production was adversely affected. Therefore in this booklet, which will be used for reference for some years, figures for more normal years will be given. In general the stock figures are for 1945, while the agricultural returns are for 1943-1944.

SHEEP.

Behind sheep is the history of Central Queensland. It has not taken a century to prove that the western environment with its classic native grasses, is among the choicest in the world for the production of the finest merino wools. The western climate is singularly adapted for its growth, as the volume produced, together with the enormous sheep population and registered stud flocks, amply testify. The region possesses the largest area of top grade merino wool producing country in the world. An early prediction, which has proved humorously false, was that through heat, dust, and drought, the northern portion of Queensland would not be suitable for wool growing, as the conditions would cause wool on the sheep to turn to hair.

A STATION FLOCK, CENTRAL WEST.

Central Queensland grazes 38 per cent. of the total sheep in the State. The number in 1945 (since reduced slightly owing to drought conditions) was 8,103,747, whilst the State's total was 21,315,977. This is under the peak total of 9,667,721 in 1941. The greatest distribution is in the shires west of Jericho. The numbers in the western shires are: Winton 1,417,203; Aramac 1,130,347; Longreach 1,040,091; Blackall 770,195; Barcoo 516,409; Tambo 474,753; Boulia 466,263; Barcaldine 434,207; Isisford 379,237; Ilfracombe 371,513.

The number of bales of wool railed through Rockhampton in 1939 was 165,595.

Supplementing the principal indigenous Mitchell, Flinders and blue grasses there are numerous valuable edible trees and shrubs. These include gidyea, boree, wilga, leopard-wood, dead-finish, ironwood and mimosa. Among the grasses are considerable growths of saltbush and herbage such as pigface, crowsfoot and convolvulus which furnish forage for range stock.

The shearing season concludes about September. The operation is carried out by contract and plants are driven by either electric power, steam or oil. Appointments in the larger shearing sheds include hydraulic loading appliances and steam or oil operated wool presses. Lambing commences about the New Year, marking is carried out in February-March, crutching and stud shearing at the end of March. Spraying to combat the blowfly is a seasonal operation. Including crutching, the amount of wool produced per sheep is 7·79 lbs.

HOGGETS ON BARCOO PROPERTY.

HEREFORD FORWARD STORES ON BELMONT, NEAR ROCKHAMPTON.

BEEF CATTLE.

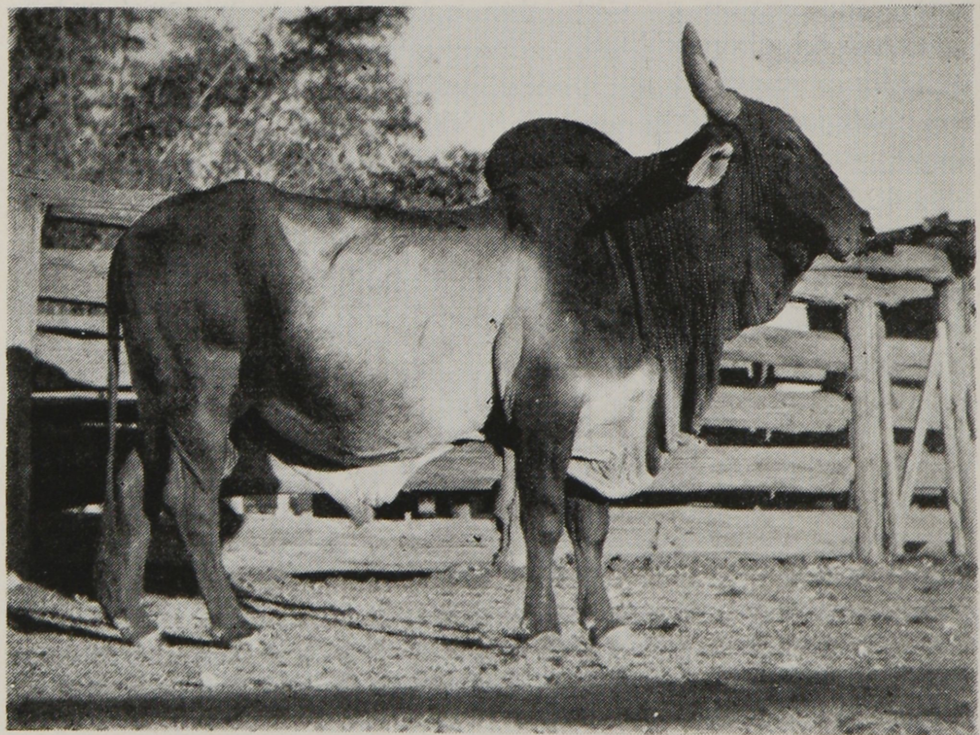
Since their introduction into Central Queensland in 1884, beef cattle have increased until today the Division grazes almost one-third of the number in Queensland. The State's cattle population in 1945 was 5,115,557 of which Central Queensland claimed 1,681,792. Most of the herds are located as far west as Jericho, with substantial numbers in the shires west of Longreach. With 166,582, Banana Shire had the greatest number. Other figures are Belyando 164,494, Taroom 155,613, Broadsound 146,226, Duaringa 140,494, Livingstone 121,759, Bauhinia 119,350, with other shires of lesser numbers. In the far western shires the principal numbers are: Diamantina 73,974, Boulia 69,006, Barcoo 63,954, and Winton 38,480.

In the 85 years of beef breeding many stud animals have been imported from both overseas and southern states. When World War II. prevented importations, new "blood" was being introduced almost weekly. These consignments of both sexes were composed of individuals rich in blood, type and conformation to what is termed modern early maturity. Their numbers and quality was a most wholesome sign of continued progress. The establishment of the chilled beef trade to the United Kingdom brought with it an urge to breed better herds. The outcome was that more graziers put into operation highly constructive programmes which included the regular introduction of sires of modern type.

ZEBU CROSSBREDS.

For many years the evolution of a tropical type of beef animal has been advocated for Northern Australia. Early settlers laid down the foundation of herds of British breeds, but almost 100 years of breeding proved that the various breeds were not wholly suited to some parts. Where environmental changes were violent, skilful husbandry failed to produce improvement, and there were instances where the desirable beef producing qualities of British breeds deteriorated.

Because of combination of conditions, such as hot weather, quality of grazing, diseases and pests was the cause of the deterioration, a Zebu hybridisation programme was commenced. The object of the experiment was to merge the contrasting desirable characteristics of various British breeds with those of the Zebu. The crossbreeding experiment commenced with the importation by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Zebu cattle from America in 1931, on behalf of Mr. C. W. Wright, Waverley, St. Lawrence, Queensland Stations Ltd., Australian Estates, and Winter Irving and Allison.



ZEBU BULL
Utilised to cross breed with standard beef types in the Central District.

The pure bred Zebu differs strikingly in many characteristics from the British beef breeds. On the wither is a fleshly lump, somewhat similar to that of a camel. The ears are large and drooping. It has a very loose dewlap and sheath. Its hindquarters are short and droop steeply at the tail and its ribs are rather flat. It also is narrow between the hips and somewhat deficient in room about the heart. Compared with British breeds it has shortness of the body and is leggy. Despite these hereditary characters it has great constitution, and capacity for development on grazing that is of low nutrition. It is more active and grazes further from water than do the British breeds. Its coat is short and smooth, and it has very active sebaceous glands and a black skin which enables it to withstand the trying influences of the tropics. It is resistant to the cattle tick and certain tropical diseases and pests.

STORE CATTLE ON DROVING TREK, CENTRAL WEST.

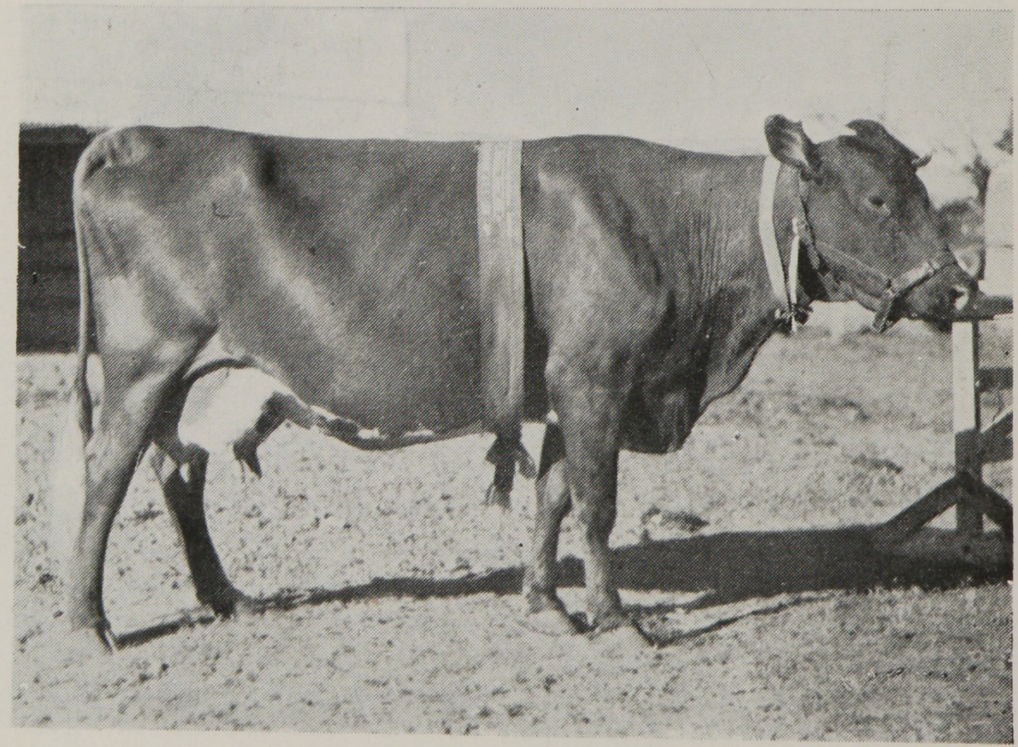
The progeny of the cross have the excellent beef propensities of the British breeds, and few of the exterior morphological characters of the Zebu, and are almost wholly tick resistant. Carcases of these crossbred animals have been exhibited in competition with British breeds at live stock shows. Their percentage of carcase to liveweight, and their age at finishing is extraordinary.

DAIRYING.

Central Queensland's annual return from milk cows is in the vicinity of £1,000,000. Dairy farming has grown to be one of the greatest primary industries, and it engages the energy of about 4,000 families. About 12,000,000 lbs. butter is produced annually.

There are more than 200,000 dairy animals, or 15 per cent. of the State's total, in the Division. With 74,000, the Banana Shire has the greatest number. This is followed by Monto with 40,000, Fitzroy 24,000, Calliope 21,000, and other shires with smaller numbers.

Half a century ago the industry began as a private affair when Messrs. Archer Bros., Gracemere, established the first dairy at Matcham with the object of supplying Rockhampton with milk, but later embraced the manufacture of butter and cheese. Today there are six butter and two cheese factories, controlled by the Port Curtis Co-operative Dairy Association. The Association owns cold stores at Gladstone, which were erected in 1925. Since then the capacity has been increased. Butter is exported direct from the store.



A PRIZE WINNING DAIRY COW.
Rockhampton Agricultural Society's Show.

PIGS.

Central Queensland conditions are very suitable for the raising of pigs. Whereas some years ago pigs were regarded as an adjunct to dairying and mixed farming, today their production has become a specialised business. Where previously almost all pigs were reared in pens, increasing numbers today are grazed. Farmers are convinced that the health of the animals, their weight gains, and the saving of feed are promoted by grazing. The system is rapidly extending. With the establishment of export markets in recent years, the industry has steadily grown.

Grazing can be more fully and profitably exploited. The rapid increase in the area sown to grain sorghum (pound for pound about equal to maize) with plentiful supplies of skim milk, is an ideal ration for finishing pigs. This can be supplemented with such crops as sweet potatoes and lucerne. In recent years increasing numbers of farmers have exploited to the fullest this form of raising, and it is proving very profitable.

Two meatworks and a bacon factory are established in the district. Their modern processing plant and trading avenues place them in a position to handle large numbers of pigs. There is a strong local market for pig meats. The growing demand for breeding animals is met by several stud piggeries which offer the most popular breeds developed to a high degree. The potential extension not only on the coast, but in the mid-Western shires, is very great.

RANGE FED PIGS.

The raising of pigs in large numbers on the open range gives promise of completely revolutionising the industry; indeed the grazing of pigs in this manner is about to be adopted in the mid-West, a region hitherto devoted entirely to sheep and cattle grazing.

The economy of range-fed pigs is nowhere better exemplified than at Barmoya, 15 miles north of Rockhampton. Farmers there realise the high value of pasture and forage crops for all classes of pigs. At Barmoya pigs are allowed to range in large paddocks provided with ample water and shade. The system was commenced by the Barrett family almost 40 years ago. As the holding of soft wood scrub was cleared, maize was planted and pigs turned into the ripe crop. With the amount of milk thistles and other varieties of forage and grass they were able to find among the crop, the pigs made rapid weight gain. Most of the better known breeds have been grazed, including Tamworth, Duroc Jersey and Poland China. In 1937 the Large White was introduced and today the whole of the herd is of that breed. Because of its foraging habits, its quick rate of gain, and the fact that they have longer legs than other breeds and are thus able to escape occasional dingoes which invade the paddocks, the Large White is considered the best pig for the production of bacon under range conditions. Today the herd consists of 500 pigs.

HERD OF RANGE FED PIGS.

The 400 acre property is subdivided into 11 paddocks ranging from five to 90 acres. These are enclosed with an ordinary fence of three wires with 2 ft. 3 in. mesh, 16 gauge wire netting at ground level. As one paddock is eaten out the pigs are transferred to another. This might be one of 40 acres of sweet potatoes planted in drills. The animals have the run of the whole paddock. Supplementing the feed in the paddocks, the pigs are daily fed 1½lb. crushed wheat and ¼lb. of meat meal. The grain is soaked in water for 24 hours and, before being fed, the meat meal is added.

Success with the growing of grain sorghum in the mid-West (Gindie-Emerald-Capella districts) has turned the attention of local graziers to pig raising on the open-run system. They propose to graze pigs in large netted paddocks and feed cracked sorghum and meat meal in self-feeding hoppers.

The idea grew out of the knowledge that in the district the wild pig has increased to pest proportions. They breed regularly, have large litters and are free from internal and external parasites. Their condition indicates that the natural grazing in the district is of the kind that largely meets the requirements of the pig. The possibilities appear vast, for there are many thousands of acres on which grain sorghum and sweet potatoes can be grown. Peanuts also are a regular annual cropper in the deep, red sandy soil of the Yamala - Springsure district. The area is also well supplied with natural herbage, shade and water. Pie melons are also a pest on both cultivated and grazing lands and these, linked with the other feeds, will combine to make a nutritive and wholesome ration for pigs of all ages.

From a sanitary, disease and parasite viewpoint, grazing will be of the utmost value. On such pasture the pigs should thrive and develop frames and muscular tissue and energy on which to lay the foundation of a desirable carcase. They also should produce bacon with a distinctive flavour and firm texture.

POULTRY.

There has been a very rapid extension in the poultry industry within the last 15 years. Up till then the bulk of the poultry and eggs were raised by farmers as a side line. The industry was almost entirely in the hands of farm womenfolk who claimed the returns as "pin money." Since then the market for poultry products has considerably extended, and the industry is more specialised. Increased demand has been met by organised marketing in Western and Northern Queensland.

An export trade has been developed and eggs in shell and egg pulp are shipped to the United Kingdom. This has stabilised the market and the industry has prospered. The result is the establishment of an increasing number of poultry farms.

Today there are 9,900 poultry farmers, and 600,000 head of poultry which produce 5 million dozen eggs ennually. The most recent development is the establishment of an Egg Board to handle marketing and other aspects of the industry.

SHORLEY'S POULTRY FARM AT ULAM.

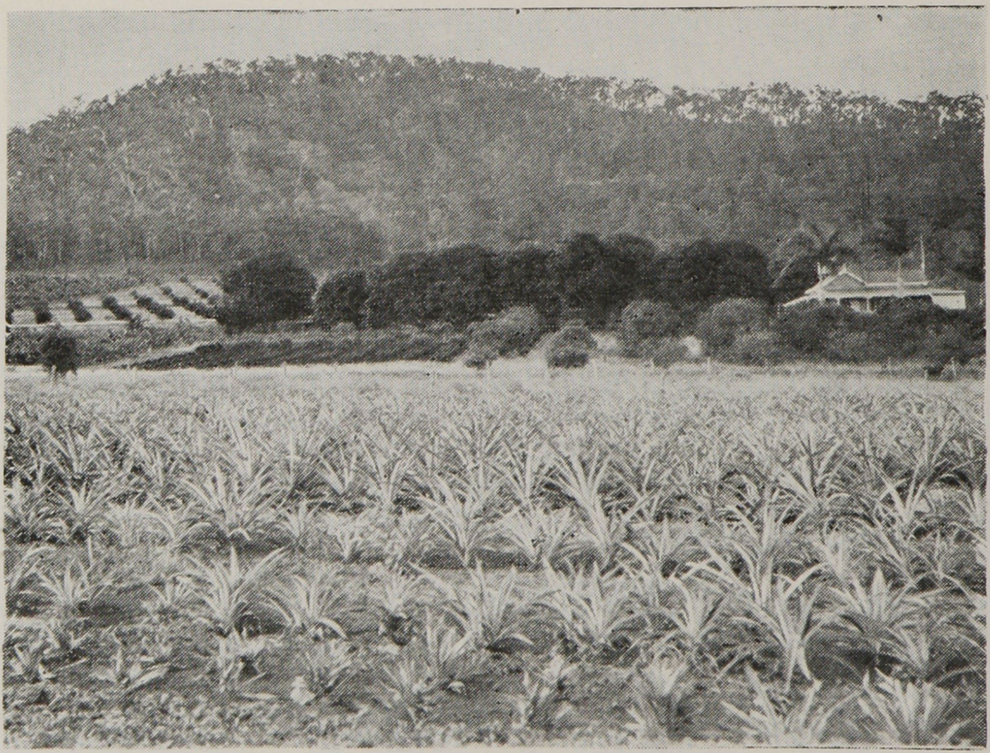
AGRICULTURE

Astride the Tropic of Capricorn, there are in Central Queensland soils and climates which grow products indigenous to tropical, sub-tropical and temperate environments. Tropical crops compete with aliens from cold countries and papaws and Swede turnips, bananas and English potatoes, cotton and cabbages and sorghum and oats thrive side by side. From iron-laden overlays, heavy, retentive, compact clay silts of river flats, chocolate, red, black and grey volcanic soils, and limy, light fertile soils of softwood scrubs and forest alluvials yield a production of great diversification.

The area and production of the principal crops for the year 1943-44 were as follow: Maize, 7076 acres; 132,417 bushels; wheat, 3372 acres, 38,781 bushels; cotton 24,741 acres, 5,924,000 lb.; sugar cane 2955 acres, 35,632 tons; peanuts, 280 acres, 273,840 lb.; lucerne, 1335 acres, 2929 tons hay; other crops, 93,188 acres.

FRUIT.

Total acres, 1927; bananas, 625, bunches, 125,054; pineapples, 324 acres, 61,237 dozen; papaws, 230 acres, 32,235 bushels; grapes, 79 acres, 81,257 lb.; oranges, 21,670 bushels; mandarins, 11,870 bushels; lemons, 1888 bushels; mangoes, 3823 bushels.



PINEAPPLE AND CITRUS FARM,
Tanby, Emu Park Line.

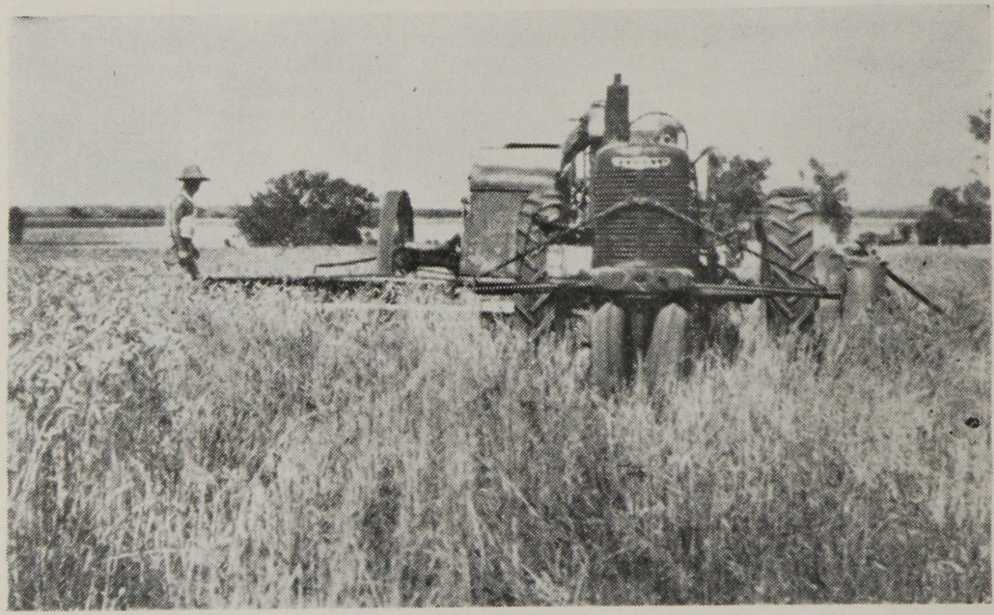
PEANUT GROWING AT BARMOYA.

The Dawson Valley is going in for Peanuts.
Gathering a First Crop.

VEGETABLES.

Total acres, 4761, English potatoes 723 acres, 1275 tons; sweet potatoes, 206 acres, 511 tons; tomatoes, 882 acres, 51,194 bushels; French beans, 286 acres, 12,724 bushels; green peas, 166 acres, 6824 bushels; cabbages, 144 acres, 25,974 dozen; pumpkins, 1481 acres, 1336 tons; cucumbers, 205 acres, 12,874 bushels.

Since its introduction a few years ago, grain sorghum has become an important crop, the acreage has risen from a small figure in 1939 to 7681 acres in 1944-45 when almost 100,000 bushels were harvested.



HARVESTING FIRST WHEAT OF SEASON.—DAWSON VALLEY.

CROP DISTRIBUTION.

The Banana Shire, which includes the Dawson and Callide Valley areas, is the main area of production for grain crops and cotton, with Monto Shire having the next largest acreage. Monto Shire grew 2298 acres of maize in 1944-45, Banana 1840 acres and Livingstone 940 acres. Wheat amounting to 2727 acres, or 73 per cent. of the total were grown in Banana, with Monto 630 acres and Taroom 330 acres. Banana Shire's sorghum acreage was 5415 acres, or 70 per cent. of the total, followed by Monto with 2044 acres. The Livingstone and Calliope Shires are the peanut growing areas. Monto producd 40 per cent. of the lucerne hay, and Fitzroy 28 per cent. Broadsound produced almost all of the sugar cane, much smaller quantity being grown in the Miriam Vale Shire.

Bananas, citrus fruits and pineapples have shown a solid increase. Almost half of the area of fruit is located in the Livingstone Shire. The Calliope Shire grows the largest quantity of papaws and accounts for 75 per cent. of the total production. One-third of the grapes are grown within the boundaries of the City of Rockhampton.

The Calliope Shire grew the largest quantity of English potatoes. Calliope also grew over half of the tomatoes produced, the Yarwun area being the main centre of production. Livingstone Shire produced the greatest quantity of beans and peas, followed by Calliope and Fitzroy. Banana Shire grew the largest acreage of pumpkins.

COTTON

With an annual planting of about 20,000 acres, or about 80 per cent. of the State's total, Central Queensland is Australia's greatest cotton growing area. In 1939, before war interrupted production, 9792 bales of raw cotton were ginned at the Glenmore Ginnery, Rockhampton. From 1930 to 1942 there was a marked increase in output, but during the war years a gradual decline in production resulted. Today the industry is suffering from the shortage of manpower and the change over to food production occasioned by the War. In view of the proposed large scale irrigation projects by the Government, and the increased price guaranteed growers for the next five years, the industry it is hoped will receive some stimulation.

Although originally established in 1871, when 12,963 acres were planted for a yield of about 8,000,000 lbs., the industry declined and was practically out of existence when a move to revive it was made in 1922. Since then it has had its ups and downs, but it may be said that the industry has passed the experimental stage, and that the areas in which the crop can best be grown and will give a reasonable profit have been plotted.

A COTTON FIELD.—DAWSON VALLEY.

Cotton has been successfully grown from Rockhampton to Maryborough. The main producing areas are the Callide and Dawson Valleys and the Upper Burnett. In 1943 the Banana Shire produced over 60 per cent. of the whole crop. The 1943 crop yielded 9,539,697 lb. of unginned cotton grown on 41,389 acres. It was worth £212,000. This was a war year and represented a decline of 32 per cent. in production, and 27 per cent. in acreage, as compared with the 1942 season. Approximately 3900 growers were engaged in the industry.

Since 1926 the Queensland Cotton Board has promoted the development of the industry, which at first was under guaranteed prices but now enjoys bounty and tariff protection. The Board fosters production, which varies greatly with the seasons. Its work includes the distribution of seed, bales and bags, advises on varieties, assists in combating pests and promoting research and improved methods of crop management. The Board operates ginneries and processes by-products, producing cotton seed oil, meal, cake and linters. Its oil mill treated 3328 short tons of cotton seed in 1944.

Australian consumption of raw cotton since 1927 has increased from 3000 bales of lint to 90,000 bales. Until 1930, production exceeded consumption, and from 1931 to 1935 production was about equal to consumption. In 1936 the production of bales of lint was 13,504, but consumption rose to 20,000 bales. In 1944 the 6055 bales of lint produced was only one-fifth of spinners' consumption.

BILOELA REGIONAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

The Department of Agriculture and Stock established an experiment station at Biloela in 1924 for the purpose of investigating problems with which growers of cotton were faced in the Callide and Dawson Valleys and elsewhere in the State. It was then appropriately designated the Cotton Research Station, but in subsequent years the scope of the work undertaken at Biloela has been steadily expanded, and when the Department of Agriculture and Stock was reorganised in 1944, it was re-designated the Biloela Regional Experiment Station.

The property is well situated in one of most recently developed areas in the State and comprises a total of 417 acres, the great bulk of which is now utilised in carrying out the experimental programme. The station is equipped with the requisite agricultural machinery, and offices and laboratories have been provided for a staff of six officers permanently located at this centre.

Left—

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COTTON.
(Ready for Picking.)

Right—

TOBACCO GROWING IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND.
Experimental Crop at Gracemere.

TOBACCO

In tobacco growing Central Queensland has gained a reputation for the production of the highest grade of cured leaf of any tobacco growing area in Australia. From Sarina to Bundaberg there are choice areas of suitable soil which produces the most desired grade of leaf in the Commonwealth. At Miriam Vale, where the average yield is about 700 lb. per acre, individual crops have exceeded 1000 lb. of cured leaf per acre.

Average prices at tobacco sales in Brisbane for local leaf are consistently high and buyers seek out Central Queensland district parcels.

Pure seed areas are established near Rockhampton, and seeds and seedlings for planting throughout the State are raised at several areas within a few miles of Rockhampton.

GOLD DOLLAR TOBACCO CROP
on Couderoy's Farm, Gracemere.

FARM HORSES NEAR ROCKHAMPTON.

MARKETING

During the past 30 years Queensland has developed a system of producers' organisations for the marketing of agricultural produce. In 1922 a general enabling Act was passed, making it possible for the Minister for Agriculture and Stock to establish marketing authorities for any agricultural product unless a majority of the producers voted against it in a poll. The marketing boards generally consist of one Government representative and a stipulated number of producers' representatives. The main object of the Boards is the protection of the primary producer from exploitation. Another important objective is grading of produce, something that is now recognised to be of advantage both to consumer and producer. Where excessive production threatens to bring down the average return for the crop, or where increased exports are prevented by external conditions, control of production becomes necessary. In the case of wheat, peanuts and sugar marketing boards play an important part in this connection.

FRUIT MARKETING.

One of the most important marketing organisations in Queensland is the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, or the C.O.D., constituted under The Fruit Marketing Organisation Act in 1923 for the orderly marketing of Queensland fruits and vegetables. Its functions are : (1) To provide cheap and rapid transport for fruit to Southern markets, and to organise bulk loadings from various growers' districts to the main markets. (2) To inform growers daily of the conditions of markets, mitigate gluts and shortages, and investigate growers' complaints. (3) To maintain wholesale selling floors in certain cities, and extend the service as opportunity offers. (4) To maintain a selling agency for Queensland fruits in Sydney and Melbourne. (5) To act as selling agents for fruit producers elsewhere.

PACKING PINEAPPLES FOR MARKET.

In addition, the C.O.D. engages upon scientific investigations, standardisation, advertising, packing and storage, banana and tomato ripening, sale of requisites to growers and of case fruit to western consumers. The organisation regularly organises special fruit transport trains from North Queensland for destinations in Southern States. The organisation has a half interest in Queensland Canneries Pty. Ltd. Its share of the capital was provided by a levy on pineapples supplied to factories.

Left—

ONION EXPERIMENTAL PLOT AT GRACEMERE.

Where tests are being carried out by the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with Newman & Sons.

Right—

IRRIGATIONAL CHANNEL on a Central Queensland Farm.

MOUNT MORGAN.

This leading mining centre of Central Queensland is situated on the Dee River, 24 miles south-west from Rockhampton. For several years after its discovery it won fame for the remarkable richness of its ore. Today one of Queensland&#39;s chief producers of gold and copper it is most noteworthy for the successful treatment of low-grade ores. The Open Cut is an impressive sight to visitors and a source of great interest to mining engineers.

Mt. Morgan supports a considerable population and has some fine public buildings including Technical College and High School, School of Arts, Soldiers Memorial Hall, Court House, and General Hospital. Situated 1200ft. above sea level the township enjoys a remarkably healthy climate and possesses many scenic attractions for visitors other than those resulting in a visit to the mine and works.

MEMORIAL TO SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
or wonm WAR 1.
Botanic Gardens, Rockhampton.

The bougainvillea that fringes Stopford Way, the mountain road from Rockhampton, is a most impressive sight whilst the lake-like prospect afforded by the Big Dam surpasses anything of its kind in the district and is well worth a visit.

The railway from Rockhampton passes through Mt. Morgan en route for the Dawson and Callide Valleys.

GLADSTONE.

Situated on the shores of Port Curtis, a wonderful land locked harbour of vast expanse and deep water, the town of Gladstone, with an estimated population of 6,000, is 328 miles north of Brisbane and 70 miles south of Rockhampton. Named after the British Prime Minister of the time, the first attempt to establish a settlement in Queensland, or Northern New South Wales, as it was then named, was made at Gladstone early in 1847, just 100 years ago. The expedition was a failure, meeting with its first disaster when the ship conveying the party, the "Lord Auckland," was wrecked at the entrance of the harbour. The expedition was led by Colonel Barney and landed at Barney Point, named after the leader of the expedition. A few years later, a party under the leadership of Captain O'Connell, afterwards Sir Maurice O'Connell, successfully established a settlement at Barney Point.

Gladstone was declared a municipality in 1863. The country was stocked with sheep at first, but was found to be more suitable for cattle and a change was made. There are many fine cattle raising properties in the district, and the fat cattle exhibit is always a feature of the annual show.

MAIN BUSINESS STREET, GLADSTONE.

In the earlier days much mining activity took place, gold being discovered at Calliope, Raglan, Cania, Kroombit, Tableland and other places. Copper mining on a large scale was carried out for many years at Many Peaks, 60 miles up the Boyne Valley.

The town is lighted with electricity. The chief industries are the meatworks, butter factory, fisheries and cold storage, sawmill, furniture factories and engineering and motor works. The Shell Company of Australia Ltd., has extensive storage tanks for petroleum products established at Auckland Point, adjacent to the main jetty.

PORTION OF RESIDENTIAL SECTION, GLADSTONE.

The Gladstone meatworks plant—taken over from a private company by Messrs. Swift Australian Co. (Pty.) Ltd., towards the end of 1934, since when extensive additions and improvements have been effected—is equipped to treat all descriptions of livestock. The killing capacities are 2,350 cattle, 5,000 sheep, 1,000 pigs and 1,000 calves weekly, and the works is in continuous operation according to available supplies of livestock, drawn from adjacent and far distant areas. The works is equipped for the production of chilled, frozen, and cured meats, all descriptions of canned meats, hams and bacon, sausage and small goods, whilst by-products of hides and skins, fats and tallow, protein meat meal and fertilizer, and many other items are produced by most modern methods. The company acts as Gladstone Agents for some of the oversea shipping lines trading with the port. Over 800 hands are employed and with an annual payroll of some quarter of a million pounds, the works operations annually circulate over £1,000,000.

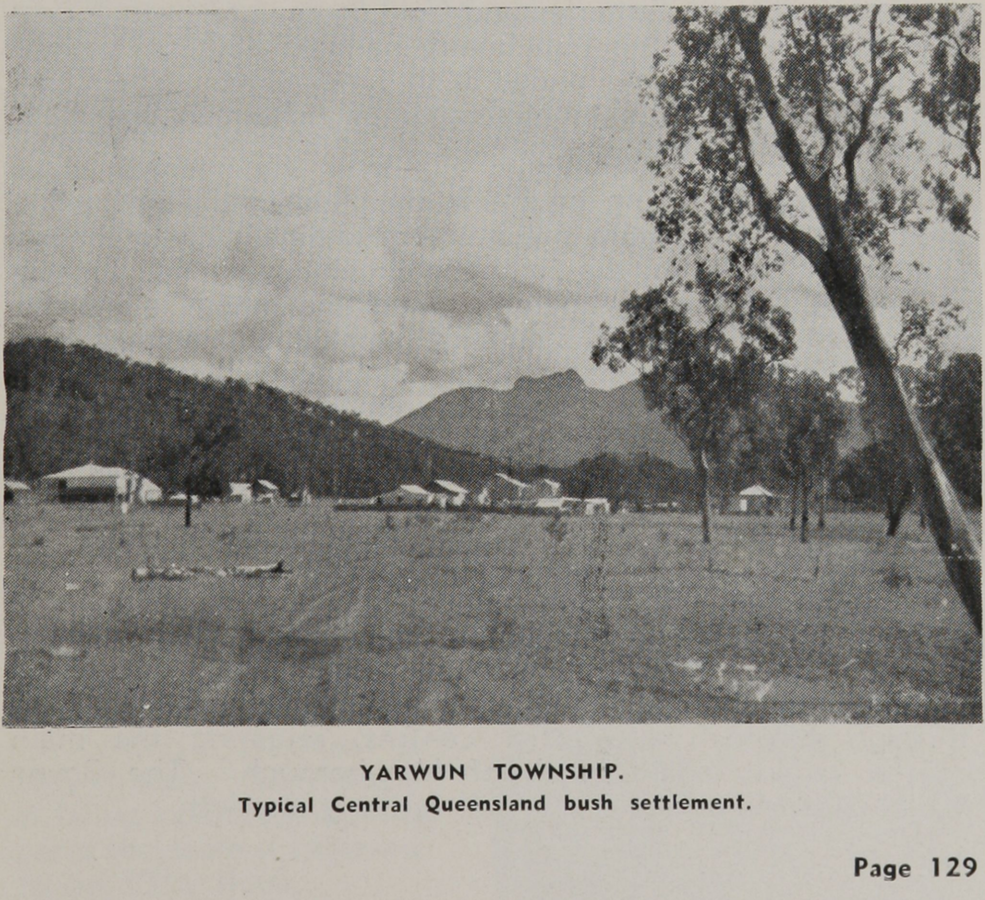
The Port Curtis Co-operative Dairy Association Ltd., which commenced operations at Gladstone in a small way in March, 1906, is now the largest association of its kind in the State. The head office is at Gladstone and the association has modern butter factories at Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Mackay (on the coast), Monto (in the upper Burnett), Biloela (in the Callide Valley), and Wowan (in the Dawson Valley), with cheese factories at Bracewell (in the Mount Larcom area), and Theodore (in the Dawson Valley), and an ice cream factory at North Rockhampton. The Association also has a half share in the Central Queensland Co-operative Stockfoods Society Ltd., which has its factory in Rockhampton. An extensive milk trade is conducted at Rockhampton and Mackay, the milk being pasteurised and distributed in bottles at Rockhampton, as well as being sold in bulk to cafes, etc. Piggeries are established at Biloela and Monto. Large cold storage facilities are established in Gladstone, to which place all surplus butter is forwarded for shipment oversea through that port. A sheetmetal department

COURT HOUSE

COURT HOUSE, GLADSTONE.

at Gladstone carries out extensive retinning of cream cans and other utensils and manufactures refrigerators for commercial enterprises and for the use of dairymen for storing cream on the farm. The Association purchases for resale to the dairymen the bulk of their requirements and has recently opened stores at Monto, Biloela and Wowan, which, for the time being, are carrying stocks of hardware lines only. Several important agencies for agricultural machinery have been undertaken and salesmen and mechanics are working the large territory covered by the activities of the association.

As an indication of the growth of the Association's butter production, in the first year of operation there were 32 suppliers and less than four tons of butter was manufactured. For the year ended 30th June, 1946, suppliers totalled 2734 and 5720 tons of butter were manufactured. Due mainly to drought conditions existing over the past few years, this was considerably below the peak year of 1939 when there were 3448 suppliers and 9302 tons of butter were manufactured.



YARWUN TOWNSHIP.
Typical Central Queensland bush settlement.

SORTING THE CATCH.
Fishing off Central Queensland Coast.

The Gladstone Fisheries and Cold Stores Ltd., which now acts as agents for the Fish Board, handled 360,000 pounds of fish during the year ended 30th June, 1946. The Company supplies the ice requirements of fishermen operating from the port.

The main shipping centre is the Auckland Point jetty, which can accommodate two overseas vessels. Large storage sheds are erected on the jetty and provision is made for the dumping of wool, a considerable quantity of which is brought from Central Western Queensland for shipment through the port. There is also an electric crane, utilised chiefly for the loading of coal, and provision is also made for loading horses which a few years ago were shipped in numbers to India and the Netherlands East Indies. Other exports include the products of the meatworks and butter factories. The principal line of imports is petroleum products in bulk, Gladstone being the distribution centre for Central Queensland.

Gladstone is situated on the main north-south railway system, and a branch railway runs from Gladstone through the Boyne Valley to Monto, and this railway continues on through Gayndah and other centres, rejoining the main coastal railway again south of Maryborough. The Boyne Valley and Monto areas are rich farming districts.

This region, until about 20 years ago, was composed of large holdings utilised for cattle raising, but it is very rich country eminently suitable for closer settlement for dairying and agriculture, and, since being opened up, has developed into one of the richest farming areas in the State. Monto is 100 miles south west of Gladstone, and situated nearer to Gladstone, and to the west, is the Callide Valley area, which is also a very rich area, and also over the other side of the Dawes range. There is no railway connection with the Callide Valley, excepting a round about route via Rockhampton. A road service for passengers, goods and mails between Gladstone and the Callide Valley is about to be inaugurated.

Nearly 100 motor launches of varying sizes are based on Gladstone. Most are privately owned but a number are engaged in licensed fishing and some are available for hire. A motor ferry maintains a regular service between Gladstone and South End at weekends and on holidays. There are also a number of sailing boats, and the Acquatic Club stages sailing races on the harbour.

In August 1948 it was reported that the development of a coalfield at Mulgeldie, 100 miles south-west of Gladstone, is almost certain as the result of a visit of the Victorian Minister for Transport (Mr. Kent Hughes). A small mine has been operating (at Silene) since October last. Until June, 1948, the mine was restricted to a daily output of 40 tons, but a number of miners are now employed and are stting a State record by producing a daily average of ten tons per man.

The Burnett Collieries Pty. Ltd. claims that the Mulgeldie field is large, but the reserves have not been surveyed. It produces good steaming and gas coal but none suitable for coking. The coal is easy to work. A 6ft. seam is being operated, but in parts the seam is believed to be 15ft. thick.

GIANT GROPER CAUGHT IN FITZROY RIVER.

LONGREACH.

Longreach, for many years the terminus of Central Queensland railway system, stands on the Thomson River, 428 miles from Rockhampton. It is the principal town of the great wool producing area of the Central West, where the bulk of Australia's finest merino wool is grown. In recent years it has become an important civil aviation centre, for besides being the birthplace of the now internationally known Quantas Service it is a fuelling depot for planes arriving from and leaving for the Far North and distant points.

Civically Longreach has developed greatly in recent years. Amongst its amenities is a particularly well equipped district hospital. Its broad streets, lined with shade trees, are named after Australian birds. It possesses some fine public buidlings and business premises. Water supply is derived from the Thomson River and from bores. Fruit and vegetables have been successfully produced with irrigation.

Some years ago a great deal of activity was displayed in boring for oil as the strata and geophysical conditions were considered to be favourable. Operations ceased with the general decline of exploration for oil in Queensland but there is a possibility of revival with the renewed interest in the quest for oil that is now coming into evidence.

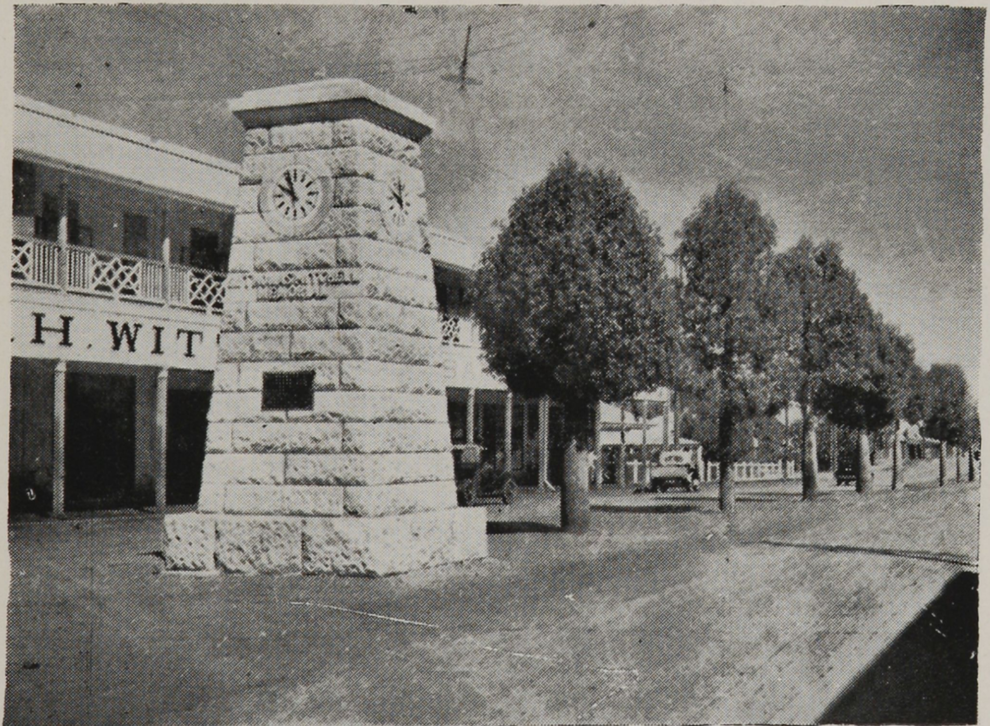
MAIN STREET, BARCALDINE, CENTRAL WEST.

BARCALDINE

Barcaldine, town next in size and importance to Longreach, is on the main western line, 361 miles west from Rockhampton. It has played a big part in the development of the western pastoral country. It is situated on Lagoon Creek and its wide streets are lined with flowering shade trees, after which many of the streets have been named. There are many substantial public buildings and business premises and the private homes are of an attractive type not general to western towns. The town water supply is derived from the artesian bore which also supplies the town baths and other requirements. Sheep is the main stock raising industry, but beef cattle and horses are raised. The soil is rich and with the aid of irrigation it will grow many crops, fruits and vegetables in abundance.

WINTON.

Winton is the largest town of the several pastoral centres west of Longreach. It is situated 110 miles by railway north-west of Longreach and 537 miles from Rockhampton. The district has a healthy climate whose dry air is beneficial to those with chest troubles. Artesian bores supply ample water for the town. The pastoral industry, with sheep coming first, is the main support of the region.



MEMORIAL TO THOMAS MITCHELL, EXPLORER.

Erected at Blackall to commemorate the Centenary of Mitchell's explorations in the Central West.

BLACKALL.

This is the largest western pastoral centre south from the main Central West railway line, on a branch line from Jericho (360 miles from Rockhampton) which has its present terminus at Yaraka. Blackall is on the Barcoo River, 72 miles from Jericho. As the streets of Longreach are named after birds, Barcaldine after trees, those of Blackall are called after flowers. Artesian bore water provides an adequate supply. The black soil is suited to market gardening, citrus fruit and grapes. English potatoes have been produced in quantity. Blackall is the centre of an extensive sheep growing region. Last year the town conducted a commemorative celebrations to mark the centenary of Sir Thomas Mitchell's first exploration of the region. A special commemorative stamp was issued by the Royal Geographical Society.

EMERALD.

Emerald is 166 miles west of Rockhampton on the Central railway. It is an important railway junction with branch lines to Capella, Clermont and Blair Athol in the north-west, and Springsure in the south. Outside the employment provided by the railway, sheep, cattle and horses are the mainstay of the district, but the agricultural possibilities of Emerald district always have been rated highly. Cotton, wheat, maize, pumpkins, citrus fruits, grapes, melons and pineapples have from time to time been produced in quantity. Town water supply is derived from the Nogoa river.

CLERMONT.

This town is situated on Sandy Creek, 239 miles by rail from Rockhampton and 74 from Emerald. It has a colorful history, and is the centre of varied sources of pastoral, coal and mineral wealth. Early it was a copper producer of importance. Later gold was discovered and many claims are still being worked at Miclere. Extensive coal deposits exis at Blair Athol 12 miles distant, and present indications are that it will become one of the Commonwealth's biggest producers of coal by the open cut method. In addition, Clermont is the principal town in a wide sheep and cattle raising area. It's soil is suited to the growing of vegetables and fruits.

SPRINGSURE.

This is one of the earliest inland towns established in Central Queensland, and is 205 miles by rail from Rockhampton and 40 from Emerald. Placed 1057 ft. above sea level, rugged mountains with peaks and bluffs of peculiar

NATIVE FAUNA.—MISS QUEENSLAND PETS KOALA BEAR AND KANGAROO.

formation give Springsure district unusual scenic charms, as well as an invigorating climate. Cattle raising is the chief industry but there is much good argicultural land in the district. The Springsure-Carnarvon area was one of those selected for oil exploration some years ago, and it is considered to possess geophysical features favourable to the presence of flow oil. At the present time the Shell Company is conducting extensive drilling operations at Rolleston with a view to thoroughly testing the region for flow oil.

Another valuable asset possessed by the district is a large area of country suitable for agriculture including peanuts and grain sorghum.

The advent of the British Food Mission and the pending developments at Blair Athol are expected to have a big influence on the future of Clermont, Emerald, Capella and Springsure, all of which are situated in this region.

OTHER PRINCIPAL CENTRES.

There are several other towns of importance in Central Queensland, including Biloela, principal centre in the Dawson-Callide Valleys. This town has made rapid progress in the past 20 years, has one of the largest butter factories in the Division, is the seat of the Banana Shire Council and the District Hospital. This is the main centre of Queensland's cotton production, dairying is conducted on a large scale and the soil is suitable for fruit and wheat growing and all types of agriculture. The newly opened Callide Coalfield is within a few miles of Biloela.

Other Dawson-Callide Valley towns of note are Thangool, Wowan, Theodore, a model township designed to be the principal centre of the Dawson Valley Irrigation scheme, and Baralaba, a coal mining centre.

On the North Coast Line the township of St. Lawrence (107 miles from Rockhampton) is the main centre of a big cattle growing district, and Ogmore (85 miles from Rockhampton) principal outlet for the Styx coal mining region.

Mt. Larcom, between Rockhampton and Gladstone, Miriam Vale and Rosedale, south of Gladstone—all three in good dairying and agricultural districts.

On the Central Western Line there are many considerable townships, mainly dependent on the pastoral industry, and railway traffic.

Away from the main line the principal pastoral centres are Tambo, Isisford, Aramac, Jundah, and Urandangie.

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